

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2003 LB 358, 359

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The question is on the advancement of LB 358 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 358.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The bill is advanced. (Visitors introduced.) Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 359, introduced by the Government Committee and signed by its membership. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 14 of this year, referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair would recognize Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill deals with voter identification, and there's basically two components to the bill, which I think would explain the bill to you better than going through it section by section, because the first component deals with identification when an applicant completes a voter registration card. And under the Help America Vote Act, which is that federal act, an applicant is required to provide his driver's license number when registering to vote. If he or she doesn't have that, the applicant is required to provide the last four digits of his or her Social Security number. If the applicant has neither, a unique identifier is assigned, and we talked about that in another bill, and this number will be used to confirm the applicant's identity. Part two of the bill talks about identification requirements for first-time voters within the county who register by mail. And, again, the federal act requires first-time voters within the county who register by mail to provide identification when they vote. For example, if the voter, after registering by mail, votes in person at the poll, the voter will be asked to provide identification. If the voter votes by mail or absentee ballot,